

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/797,559
Response filed June 20, 2006
Reply to OA dated March 20, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended, and claim 7 has been canceled (claims 1 - 4 having been earlier canceled) in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006.

Claims 5, 6 and 8 remain in this patent application, claims 1 - 4 and 7 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner objects to the drawings for the reasons set forth in item 2, page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection.

In a telephone interview conducted on June 7, 2006 with Examiner J.R. Bellinger, the applicants' undersigned representative requested clarification on the outstanding objection to the drawings. The undersigned, in behalf of the applicants, pointed out that, in fact, the claimed roller, recited in claim 5, is fitted between the end portions of the claimed shaft, as illustrated in, e.g., the applicants' Figure 1.

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The applicants respectfully acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's withdrawal of such objection during the above-noted telephone interview.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the drawings is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Furthermore, the Examiner objects to the language of claim 6 for the reasons set forth in item 3, page 3 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

In response, the applicants have deleted the term "circular" (in both instances) from claim 6 in order to avoid the Examiner's objection thereto.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the language of claim 6 is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

At this time, the applicants thank the Examiner for now indicating that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in the manner suggested in item 8, page 4 of the outstanding Action.

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Claims 5 - 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, because, according to the Examiner, it is unclear in claim 5 how the claimed shaft receives a load from the claimed roller “toward” the diametrical direction of the claimed shaft. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Here, the applicants have amended independent claim 5 so as to more particularly recite that the claimed shaft receives a load from the claimed roller “along the diametrical direction of the shaft” (emphasis added).

Furthermore, independent claim 5 has been amended so as to more particularly recite that the recess portions of the claimed connection portion are “at symmetrical positions with respect to a shaft axis.”

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

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As to the merits of this case, claims 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dester (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,143). The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

In order to help expedite the processing of this patent application to issuance, the applicants have incorporated a substantial portion of allowable claim 6 into independent claim 5, and claim 6 has been amended accordingly.

It is the applicants' position that such amendments to independent claim 5, incorporating therein such substantial portion of the allowable subject matter of claim 6, should now make claim 5 similarly allowable.

Claims 6 and 8 depend on claim 5, and should now be similarly allowable.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC §102(b) based on Dester (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,143) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

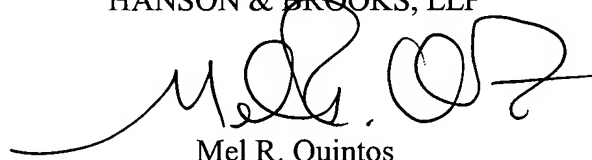
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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